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Claims

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for producing paper pulp for use in the
5 making of paper from eucalyptus wood chips, comprising in
the steps of:
 - a) inoculating the wood chips with white rot fungi;
 - b) fermenting the wood chips so as to cause a
propagation of the fungus through the wood chips and
10 allow the fungus to modify lignin; and
 - c) pulping the degraded wood chips by a known kraft
process.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 together with the
further step of bleaching the kraft pulp by a known
15 multistage bleaching process.
3. Canceled.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
fermentation step is a static fermentation step.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the white rot
20 fungus is *C. subvermispora*.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the *C.*
subvermispora is a strain selected from the group
consisting of: L-14807-SS-3, CZ-3, FP-105752-SS-5, FP-
10572 and L-9186-SP.
- 25 7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said white
rot fungus is *Hyphodontia setulosa*.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said white
rot fungus is *Phlebia subserialis*.
9. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said white
30 rot fungus is *Phlebia brevispora*.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said white rot fungus is *Phlebia tremellosa*.
11. A method claimed in claim 1 wherein said white rot fungus is *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*.
- 5 12. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wood chips are inoculated with the fungus and without nutrients.
13. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wood chips are inoculated with the fungus and known nutrients.
- 10 14. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the moisture content of the chips prior to the step of inoculation is kept at fibre saturation point or greater.
- 15 15. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said moisture content is 50-55% of the total wood based on a wet weight of the chips.
16. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wood chips are inoculated with 1 to 5 gms inoculum/ton of wood.
17. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the moisture content in the wood during the step of fermentation is 55-65%.
- 20 18. Biotreated eucalyptus wood chips for kraft pulping prepared by the process comprising
inoculating the eucalyptus wood chips with white rot fungi, and
25 fermenting the wood chips so as to cause propagation of the fungus through the wood chips and obtain chemically modified lignin.

19. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising making paper from pulp produced in step (c).